

Did you know?

- Brockwell Park is the second largest public open space in the Borough of Lambeth and contains a wide variety of buildings, features and things to use, see and treasure.



- The park contains over 2,000 individual trees of all ages, heights, sizes and species; some are native to Britain whilst others have been introduced from Europe and many other parts of the world.

- Some trees date back to when the park was farmland or a private estate but many others were planted when it was being established in the late 19th Century; many more have been planted since it was opened in 1892.



- The oldest tree in Brockwell Park is thought to be the huge English oak on the south side close to Brockwell Hall, which could be well over 600 years old: it would have been a little sapling at the time of the War of the Roses (1455-1485), long before Henry VIII and Elizabeth I were even on the throne!

- Trees in the park are managed to keep them healthy and safe, and new ones are planted to replace those that die or are removed; the Friends of Brockwell Park contribute to this through their annual tree planting events.

- Trees are essential not just for people but for wildlife, providing homes, food and shelter; Brockwell Park wouldn't be one of the best wildlife sites in London if it wasn't for its many beautiful trees. As well as being great for wildlife, trees make us feel better and enrich our lives.



- This leaflet only shows some of the commoner trees in this park: there are many more to discover so please contact us if you need further information or detailed guides.

For more information on Brockwell Park, its restoration and management, please contact Lambeth Council on **020 7926 9000** or at **parcs@lambeth.gov.uk**. To find out more about Brockwell Park, including downloading a copy of this and other guides, please go to the Lambeth Council website at **www.lambeth.gov.uk**

Brockwell Park tree trail

Introduction to the trees of Brockwell Park

Brockwell Park is one of London's greatest and most loved public parks, containing not just some fantastic views across the city but also popular features including a walled garden, ponds and a range of sports and play facilities. The park has recently been restored with funding including from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), The Big Lottery and the London Borough of Lambeth, in partnership with Brockwell Park Community Partners and a wide range of other stakeholders. The objective has been to provide residents and visitors with a park that is safe, welcoming and sustainable, and meets the needs and aspirations of both present and future generations.

Acknowledgements

The following organisations have contributed to not only the production of this guide, but also the management of Brockwell Park to conserve its many wild plants and animals and promote it as a place for everybody to see and enjoy wildlife throughout the year.

Friends of
Brockwell Park



Brockwell Park
Community
Greenhouses
Registered Charity no. 1140990

Brockwell
Park Community
Partners



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Description of key points of interest

1 Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*)

Also known as the Maidenhair Tree with fan-shaped leaves, the ginkgo is a 'living fossil' – the surviving member of a family of trees that once grew when dinosaurs roamed the earth. Originally from China, it was introduced to Britain in 1758.



2 Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*)

An evergreen first introduced from the Mediterranean 400 years ago, and unlike the English oak it keeps its leaves on in the winter. It thrives in a wide range of soils, winds and polluted air, and has a thin grey bark with small acorns in woolly cups.

3 Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*)



A 'pioneer tree' with white-silver papery bark whose catkins release small winged 'nutlets' that disperse widely. It colonises open areas and tolerates harsh conditions, and its small leaves allow light to reach the ground encouraging a rich ground flora.

4 Black Mulberry (*Morus nigra*)

Widely planted by the Victorians for its delicious purple-black fruit, and first introduced from Asia in the 1600s as food for caterpillars of Silkworm Moths to allow Britain to produce its own silk. However, Silkworm caterpillars feed on the leaves of the White Mulberry!

5 Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)

A common tree with ripe red berries and evergreen leaves associated with winter and Christmas. Once used as a prickly 'living fence' to keep animals in fields, its berries are food for winter birds like thrushes, and its leaves provide fodder for animals like deer and cattle.



6 Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)

Once harvested for timber by 'pollarding' or 'coppicing', and common in gardens and parks. The hard wood was used for butchers' chopping blocks, skittles, wooden screws, axles and pulleys. Its clusters of small ribbed nuts are popular with wild birds and mammals.



7 Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)

A large common tree from the Balkans first introduced to Britain in the early 1600s, with large leaves, 'candles' of white-red flowers and spiky 'conkers'. Currently suffering from small caterpillars eating the inside of leaves, resistant varieties are now planted to ensure this tree doesn't disappear from our parks.



8 London Plane (*Platanus x hispanica*)

One of London's commonest and longest living trees, widely planted because it tolerates road runoff and compact soils, shedding its bark and tough, glossy leaves to cope with pollution and heavy pruning. A hybrid of two non-native planes it was brought to Britain in the 1600s from mainland Europe.



9 Common Lime (*Tilia x europea*)

A hybrid of broad- and small-leaved lime with pinky-red twigs and buds, and dark green heart-shaped leaves with a sticky-sweet coating caused by aphids (greenfly). Lime wood was once used for fine carvings such as those by the sculptor Grinling Gibbons (1648-1728).

10 English Oak (*Quercus robur*)

A popular tree steeped in history and folklore; the timber was used in buildings, warships, barrels and furniture, and the bark to tan leather. They can live for over a thousand years and grow to huge sizes: the largest in Brockwell Park is over 600 years old. Oaks are important for wildlife providing food and shelter for many different fungi, insects, birds and mammals.

